

# First Press

August 2020—September 2020

First Presbyterian Church

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Miller, South Dakota 57362

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*Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.*

**Psalm 147:1 (NRSV)**

I am excited to say that as I write this, we are planning for a return to worship in the sanctuary this Sunday, July 26. My hope is that nothing happens that causes us to have to seriously re-think that decision.

When this pandemic began, I had no idea our time apart could last so long. But as we come back together, I am a little apprehensive about what could happen. There are churches in the country that have been at the center of viral transmission, and I would hate for that to be our story.

So we will worship together again—but perhaps not all of us. If you feel like you would be particularly vulnerable to getting sick, please do not feel obligated to be with us in person. If you are feeling sick—at all—please wait until you are better before you return.

The Psalmist says: How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

Songs of praise are fitting. Unfortunately, we will not be singing those songs together for a while. I read an article this week written by a person who fully intends to sing out the hymns of faith—but only from home. When in church he will abide by the guidance that says such singing with others is a good way to pass on the virus that has caused so much turmoil. We will do the same.

I think I have found myself singing hymns to myself more than usual these past few months. Maybe we need to sing our praises. We can. We will. And I am hopeful that one day we might again do it together. But for now we will look out for each other and do what we can to keep each other safe.

More than at any other time in the past 20 years, I will mean it when I say: I hope to see you in church!

Blessings,

Brian Jones

## SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on

June 10<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>  
in the Fellowship Hall

### Weddings

Dannielle Davis and Andrew Grape  
June 6, 2020

Sylvia Wieseler and Colin Johnson  
June 13, 2020

### Funerals

Joe Poindexter  
June 29, 2020

*The Session has decided to re-open church on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome! After a long discussion over the safety of our congregation, the following conditions were agreed upon:*

*Face masks are encouraged.*

*People will sit every other pew observing social distancing (6 ft) with family groups,*

*There will be no fellowship time before or after worship in the building,*

*We will hum to the music of two hymns (there will be no singing) and responsive reading will be held quietly,*

*Seating in the balcony will be allowed but the same rules apply,*

*The congregation will be ushered out of the church so as to continue safe social distancing*



**BIBLE STUDY:** Circle group 1 was active with meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Due to COVID-19, no meetings were held after February. Future bible study will be determined next fall.

We welcome any suggestions for fund raising, missions or anything else you'd like to see the PW accomplish this year. Thank you to the ladies for their assistance in the work of the Presbyterian Women. The Bakeless Bake Sale continues as our sole fundraiser at this time. If you haven't made a donation, please submit a contribution to **Nancy Williams at 1802 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Miller, SD 57362.**

Due to the continuing COVID-19 health scare, plans remain at a standstill. We hope to begin the Circle meetings this fall. Plan on a PW meeting to be scheduled for Officers and Funeral Chairman in the near future. Meeting is to plan for the rest of this crazy year.

If you have concerns or suggestions, feel free to call me at anytime 853-3299. I am always willing to listen.

Dear Lord, bless us and keep us. Amen.

Mary Johnson, Moderator

## Bell Choir

Though we do not know exactly when the bell choir will begin practice again, we do know this: when the time is right, we will be practicing with a set of new music risers! The risers will hold the music closer to eye level, which will facilitate seeing the music and the director at the same time. We thank Dick Palmer for giving his time and for sharing his building talents with us, as well as the donations made to the music fund that helped buy the materials. We feel blessed, and look forward to ringing for the congregation again!

Ray Caffee

## **Christian Education Report**

**“How beautiful upon the mountains are  
the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace, who brings good  
news. Isaiah 52: 7a**

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**Hope you enjoyed your Staycation!  
It's time to travel with Jesus back to  
Sunday school.**



### **Schedule for returning to Sunday school.**

**WE ARE NOT SURE HOW IT WILL ALL  
LOOK BECAUSE OF COVID -19.**

**August 30 Rally Day** – Come to church and Sunday school. Students will go to opening and then find their classrooms, meet their teachers, and have a shortened lesson. There will be a **potluck dinner** followed by some activities from the Staycation VBS.

**Sept. 2** First classes for Gr. 6-8 at 7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 6** No Sunday school – Labor Day weekend

**Sept. 13** 1. Sunday school resumes  
Third Graders get Bibles during worship.  
Christian Ed. Leaders will be commissioned during worship.  
Attendance pins awarded for 2019-2020. This is the breakdown of classes and teachers for this year.

**Preschool – kgtn.:** Laura Duxbury Angie,

Shaylee, and Kaihlyn Anderberg.

**Gr. 1-2:** Kelly Johnson  
Kelly Wagner

**Gr. 3-5** 2 teachers needed

**Gr. 6-8:** Not known for sure

**Opening:** Tyann Jones  
**Pianist:** Susan Jones

**Adult Class:** Janice Palmer Brian Jones

**Confirmation:** Brian Jones  
**Gr. 7-8**

### **Junior Youth Group:**

Kevin Hofer  
Sarah DeHaai

**Senior Youth Group:** Brian & Tyann Jones

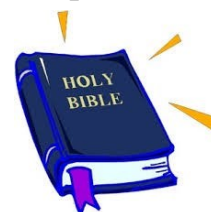
**Christmas Program:** Kelly Duxbury  
Brian and Tyann Jones  
*We need a co-chair.*

**Please consider making Christian Education part of your ministry. Please call Tyann Jones, Kevin Hofer, Gayle Vrooman or Stephanie Dietterle to volunteer.**

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Third Graders get Bibles in church on  
**September 13**

Corbin Kruml  
Quinnley Miner  
Ava Johnson  
Harper Duxbury



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## Staycation Bible School

### FEET THAT FOLLOW:

"Awesome are YOUR feet! They carry God's love wherever you go!"



We did our VBS through our website this year. It is not too late to take part. Go to our church website: <https://www.millerpresby.com/> Click on the Staycation link for all the lessons and activities.

Watch our Sunday school videos as leaders went through the lessons, activities, and songs there also.

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### THANK YOU!

The last 5 months have been very different for everyone. Thanks to the dedication of so many, Christian Education worked!!

**Technical Support:** Dee Sivertsen, Rich Waldrop, Brian Jones, Sarah Resel

**Packet mailing:** Marilyn Dyer, Angie Anderberg, Tyann Jones, Kelly Wagner, Gayle Vrooman, Stephanie Dietterle

**Online lessons:** Kelly Wagner, Tyann Jones, Angie Anderberg, Marilyn Dyer, Janice Palmer

**Staycation:** Angie Anderberg, Tyann Jones, Stephanie Dietterle, Brian Jones

**CE committee:** These people helped in ALL areas: Gayle Vrooman, Tyann Jones, Stephanie Dietterle, Kevin Hofer

Submitted by Tyann Jones



## Choir Notes

First of all, we want to thank all of those who have helped us out with special music throughout these twenty weeks of COVID-19. Everyone we asked to help, sometimes on very short notice, was eager not only to sing in worship, but also to attend practices and recordings at what were sometimes very odd hours. Those who provided music for us were Dawn Haar, Jim Jones, Brian Winter, Laura Evans, John Bertsch, Carole Skinner, Kay Foreman, Marilyn Dyer, Susan Jones, Brian Jones, Jim Dyer, and Dick Palmer. These folks were there on time, glad, and ready to attend carefully to the music they would bring.

What can we say about the road ahead? "Follow the yellow brick road" probably won't do. *All* of our songbirds, special indeed—every one of them—are eager to get back together again to prepare music for worship, but we shall pray and wait until the way ahead is safe and clear.



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**If you have an address change or a birthday/anniversary date that is not on our calendar—please let the office know.**

## **Birthdays in August**

2 - Kylie Selting  
4 - Jaden Anderberg  
6- Mike Edwards  
8 – Docson Jones  
9- Laura Duxbury  
10 - Avis Chipman  
13 - Riley Pugh  
14 - Kim Johnson  
15- Heather Resel  
June VanZee  
17 - Sandra Selting  
20 - Greg Rediger  
Dayken Bossert  
Bailey Strasburg  
Ruby Carder  
21 - Robert Crackel  
Davon Rombough  
23 - David Johnson  
22- Stephanie Bonebright  
Stephan Resel  
25 - Sarah Resel  
26 – Kristy Strasburg  
28 - Ellen Parmely  
31- Kohen Resel

## **Anniversaries in August**

4 – Kevin & Tiffany Hofer  
10 - Travis & Angie Anderberg  
12 - J.D. & Deb Bushfield  
20- Mike & Jennifer Runge  
21 - Whitey & Joyce Wieland  
22 - Rich & Pat Waldrop  
26 – Robin & Gayle Vrooman

## **Birthdays in September**

6 - Ava Johnson  
Vaelynn Welk  
7 - Rich Waldrop  
9 - Corbin Kruml  
11 -Luis Koeck  
12 - Dale Dyer  
14 - John Rombough  
Dee Sivertsen  
16 - Roberta Harvey  
17 - Carolyn Rediger  
- Colton VanDerWerff  
- Carol Swaney  
19 - Libby Brahmhatt  
Tyson VanDerWeff  
20 - Taylor Droz  
Daniel Palmer  
Kirby VanDerWerff  
21 - Leonard Fischer  
22 - Carter Kruml  
23 - Vance Caffee  
Wayne Ruhnke  
Ryland Nelson  
24 – Tanner DeHaa  
25 - Patricia Waldrop  
Jennifer Thyen  
27 - Tammy Caffee  
Jason Mentzer  
Chip Rombough  
Teague Resel  
28 - Joan Sivertsen  
29- Hadlee Duxbury  
30 - Lee Skinner  
Roxanne Stevens

## **Anniversaries in September**

18 - Donnie & Bonnie Ehlers  
19 – Tony & Kristen Moss  
26- Dick & Janice Palmer  
29 – Travis & Kassandra Foreman

## **Greeters for August**

2 – Jim & Marilyn Dyer  
9 – Ray & Tammy Caffee  
16– Kay & Doyle Foreman  
23–Travis & Angie Anderberg  
30- Jim Jones

## **Greeters for September**

6 – Brian & Jan Winter  
13 – Larry & Janice Arbogast  
20 - Wayne & Shar Ruhnke  
27 - Sarah Resel

## **Ushers for August**

Charlene Beckett, Angie Rosemore,  
Jim & Marilyn Dyer

## **Ushers for September**

Rich Waldrop, Mike Mentzer,  
Wayne & Shar Ruhnke

## **Deacons for August**

Dwan DeGeest & Gayle Vrooman

## **Deacons for September**

Jean Johnson & Jim Jones

